

THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY



"News from Next Door"

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 25, 2023

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Downtown Hertford's Grand Illumination set for Friday

JULIAN EURE
Managing Editor

HERTFORD — Hertford is gearing up for its annual "Christmas Weekend" which features the Grand Illumination and Hertford Christmas Parade on successive days Friday and Saturday, Dec. 1-2.

Susan Cox, event co-chair for the Grand Illumination, said between 300 and 400 residents and visitors attended last year's event. She's expecting that many and more if the

weather cooperates.

While a full slate of activities is planned Friday evening, the Grand Illumination's main attraction is the 6 p.m. turning on of the downtown Christmas lights, which is known as the Perquimans Festival of Lights.

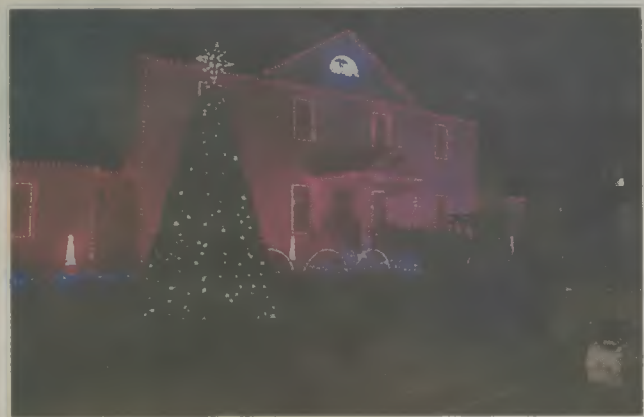
As she has since taking office four years ago, Hertford Mayor Earnell Brown will have the honor of turning on the downtown Christmas lights. It may be one of her last public acts as mayor: Brown chose not to seek re-election in the

town's recent election earlier this month.

Cox said Downtown Hertford, the new name of Hertford's Main Street program, added more Christmas lights to this year's display. She wasn't sure about the exact number but said it will be enough to again illuminate the Perquimans County Courthouse, string three strands across Church Street and then decorate several businesses on the other side of the street. Last year's Perquimans Festival of Lights only covered the courthouse.

Grand Illumination activities get underway with a full slate of children's activities from 5 p.m. to 6 p.m. Kids will get a chance not only to write a letter to Santa Claus but get an answer from him, Cox said. They'll also have a chance to "fix reindeer food" for Santa's helpers and make suet packs for birds that will be hung on trees. Finally, they'll get a chance to showcase their talent singing Christmas carols at an open mic.

More ILLUMINATION | A2



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The Perquimans County Courthouse is lit up by 6,000 Christmas lights during last year's Grand Illumination event in Hertford. The lights remain illuminated at night throughout the Christmas season.

Turkey Drop



PHOTOS BY CHRIS DAY/THE DAILY ADVANCE
Buzz Hartman (left) and Stephanie Fuller, both volunteers for The Open Door Food Pantry of Perquimans County, accept a turkey and other Thanksgiving meal fixins' from a donor during The Open Door's 10th annual Turkey Drop at Hertford United Methodist Church in downtown Hertford, Friday. The event collected 264 frozen turkeys and more than 1,500 pounds of food for distribution to less-fortunate area residents who are regular clients of The Open Door.

Drive provides Thanksgiving for less-fortunate

Buzz Hartman, a volunteer with The Open Door Food Pantry of Perquimans County, accepts a box of Thanksgiving meal items from a donor during The Open Door's 10th annual Turkey Drop at Hertford United Methodist Church in downtown Hertford, Friday.



VERONICA DOWNING
Correspondent
Area residents dropped off 264 turkeys and more than 1,500 pounds of food at this past weekend's Turkey Drop to help their less-fortunate neighbors have a more enjoyable Thanksgiving. The Turkey Drop was the 10th annual food-collection event organized by The Open Door Food Pantry of

Perquimans County. Over two days, Friday and Saturday, residents pulled into the parking lot at Hertford United Methodist Church on Dobbs Street in Hertford and dropped off either frozen turkeys and Thanksgiving meal fixins' or monetary donations. In some cases, they dropped off both.

More TURKEY | A6

Hertford tables rezoning for housing project

CHRIS DAY
Multimedia Editor

Hertford officials are taking more time to consider a request to rezone property off Don Juan Road from commercial use to residential single-family housing. Town Council's decision to table a developer's request to rezone the property followed a lengthy discussion between council members and civil engineer Joe Anlauf, who was attending on the developer's behalf.

Council tabled the issue after deciding not to vote Monday, Nov. 13, whether to rezone the land from C2 commercial to R6 single-family residential development. The motion

stipulated that council take no longer than 90 days to reach a decision. Anlauf presented a conceptual sketch plan of a subdivision proposed at the intersection of Don Juan Road and Brian Center Drive. According to the plan, the subdivision would include 119 single-family homes. Mayor Earnell Brown opened the discussion by asking if R6 would be too dense, or have too many lots on the proposed site. She was concerned because a zoning designation of R6 means each home would be built on a 6,000-square-foot lot and would leave about 75 feet of space between each home.

More HERTFORD | A2



JOHN FOLEY/THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY
The Hertford Grammar School PTA's Candyland float rolls during Hertford's annual Christmas Parade in December 2022. This year's parade will be Saturday, Dec. 2, at 2 p.m.

PAL exhibit honors artist, benefactor Pardue

VERONICA DOWNING
Correspondent

The Perquimans Arts League recently held a reception to pay tribute to the life and work of the late Jack Lavern Pardue, a major benefactor of the arts group and the namesake for its youth

gallery. Pardue died on Aug. 18 at age 77. PAL welcomed friends of Pardue and admirers of his work to its gallery in Hertford on Thursday, Nov. 9, to view both his paintings and those of his long-time friend and fellow artist, Annie Cummins. The joint exhibit, which remains on display through the end of the month, is titled "Seashores & Seashells."



VERONICA DOWNING PHOTO
Annie Cummins, a pastel artist known for her paintings of seashells, talks with (l-r) Shirley Pardue, widow of artist Jack Pardue; and Hertford residents Fred Mattison and Lorraine Moss during a reception to mark the opening of a joint exhibit of paintings by Cummins and Jack Pardue called "Seashores and Seashells" at the Perquimans Arts League in Hertford, Thursday, Nov. 9.

More PARDUE | A6

Christmas Parade rolls next Saturday

JULIAN EURE
Managing Editor

Hertford's annual Christmas parade set for next Saturday will feature at least 10 floats, a group of antique cars, the Perquimans County High School Marching Pirates, members of the ECU Pirates baseball team, and a representative of the lieutenant governor of the state of North Carolina. The theme for this

year's Hertford Christmas Parade, which gets underway at 2 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 2, is "Twas the Night Before Christmas." It was chosen for the theme by students at Perquimans County High School, Perquimans Chamber of Commerce Director Diane Cangemi said, because this year marks the 200th anniversary of the poem first being published.

More PARADE | A7

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